

**FREDERICKSBURG  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of April 15, 2010**

The April meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, April 15, 2010 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Brian Baker (arrived late), Bob Carter (Acting Chairman), Ken Kroko, Charles McDaniel (arrived late), Barbara Miller-Richards (arrived late), and George Solley. Absent: Commissioners Tim Duffy, George Foster, and Susan Tyler. Also in attendance: Robert Antozzi and Patricia Sparks.

- I. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of March 18, 2010 were unanimously approved.

II. **Public Comment:**

James Lawrence, 802 Caroline Street, informed the Commission that he saw the Director of Parks and Recreation meeting with a small group of people at the Riverfront Park. Mr. Lawrence stated that he hoped that they were discussing the placement of benches and recycling.

- III. **Communications from the Director:** The Commissioners reviewed the following reports:

Financial Report – March 2010  
Sports Report – March-April 2010  
Leisure Report – April-May 2010  
The Follow-up Report  
Ltr. to Steve Owens from Phil Rodenberg  
Re: Cossey Pond (Dated 10/13/06)

- IV. **Noteworthy Dates:** The Commissioners reviewed upcoming programs and trips.

V. **Old Business:**

A. **Pathways** – Dr. Antozzi reported that we are getting very close to having all of our permits completed. Currently, we are waiting on a report from the Department of Historic Resources outlining any historical or cultural impact the proposed pathway may have. The report will include both the Heritage and the VCR trail. On April 20, 2010, Chris Kaila, Appraiser, will meet with Susanne Geslois, owner of the property through which the City is planning the Heritage Trail and for which the City needs an easement, to go over

the survey that was necessary for the appraisal. Following that meeting, the City will make her an offer.

- B. Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Partnership** – Dr. Antozzi stated that the City Manager asked him to contact Jerry Sappington, Project Manager, to find out his perspective on the status of the project. Jerry Sappington responded that he is waiting on permits from the City. The project will begin as soon as permits are received. A ground-breaking ceremony will be announced at a later date.
- C. Riverfront Park** – Dr. Antozzi reported that he had met with a group of volunteers who will be working on modifying the riverbank. The group consisting of conservationists and environmentalists were asked to determine what is non-indigenous (invasive species) and what is indigenous (non-invasive). It has been determined by the group that the riverbank is 95% non-indigenous (invasive). The group then decided to clear out one type of berry tree and some invasive vegetation and leave the good vegetation. Dr. Antozzi reported that the purpose of the temporary fencing was for safety. However, once construction is completed the fencing will be used to control the foot traffic on the green space of certain areas of the park.
- D. Policy on Alcohol at DHCC** – No report.
- E. Youth Sports Policy and Procedures** – Commissioner Baker reported that sub-committee met and discussed the following items:

**Two-year age waivers** – Mike Ward is working on developing the two-year age waiver language for the sports policy. Parks and Recreation staff currently has a two-year age waiver form that is filled out by the parent; however, the sports policy does not reference the form or outline any specifics for the due process. Commissioner Baker stated that the committee voted to list the Recreation Commission as the authority for the due process.

**Tournament Day** – Commissioner Baker stated that the committee discussed having a "Family Festival Day" in place of playoffs. All teams would participate in playing several games over the entire day. Discussion to continue.

**Dynasty Team Issue** – Commissioner Baker reported that last year the Commission adopted a change in the policy in reference to the dynasty team issue. The issue has worked very well in some areas, but has failed to work in other areas. The language will be revised and it will then be given to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Baker asked Dr. Antozzi to schedule another meeting to continue discussion and finalize the items outlined.

**F. Dixon Park Policy/Facility Use Contract – Take off.**

- G. Background Security Check** - The Commissioners received a handout on the current guidelines for the Volunteer Staff background screening process. The Commissioners asked how often the background check is performed on the volunteers? The secretary was directed to put it on the follow-up report for the May meeting.

**VI. New Business: None**

**VII. Commission Concerns and Topics:**

Commissioner Kroko – none

Commissioner Solley – none

Commissioner Baker complimented Jason Smith on his weekly updates and inspirational notes.

Commissioner McDaniel asked if anyone knew about the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries conducting some experiments down at the city dock. He explained that different schools have participated in the experiment and it looked very interesting.

Commissioner Miller-Richards stated that we might want to be aware of scheduling adult programs that other local organizations offer. There are some amenities that other organizations offer that may result in lower registrations for Parks and Recreation programs.

Commissioner Carter asked about the city budget. Dr. Antozzi reported that Parks and Recreation did not have many changes for the 2011 budget.

Dr. Antozzi reported that Zachery Rainey has been hired as our Pool Manager. Mr. Rainey has a BS in Biology and a Master's degree in Forensic Biology. He is a certified pool operator and lifeguard instructor. Mr. Rainey is very well qualified for the Pool Manager position.

Dr. Antozzi stated that he was asked to look at Powhatan Park as a possibility for a new park. W. C. Spratt is the primary contractor for utility work in that area and has volunteered to grade, bring in the topsoil, and assist in

developing the area into a park setting suitable for a playground.

The City Manager has asked Dr. Antozzi to consider having a mid-summer soccer tournament at Dixon Park. The economic impact was substantial from the last soccer tournament. The Parks and Recreation staff is discussing the option. Commissioner Carter stated that he had a brochure that listed the soccer organizations expenses and revenue. The soccer organization's approximate profit is 50%. The Commissioners expressed their concerns on the Dixon Park field rental fees. The condition and quality of the Dixon Park soccer fields far exceeds other local soccer fields.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Approved by the Recreation Commission

  
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Robert Antozzi, Director

  
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Date

Next Commission Meeting Thursday, May 20, 2010.